Jet Airways also started a daily flight on the sector Delhi-Pune-Delhi w.e.f. 22.11.97. Out of 476 flights of Jet Airways, 88 flights were delayed. Only 16 flights were delayed because of factors within the control of Jet Airways.

The remaining flights were delayed because of adverse weather, airport restrictions, consequential and miscellaneous reasons.

Action plan to fight economic sanctions

*592. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Union Ministries have recently been asked to prepare their action plans to fight the negative impact of economic sanctions;

(b) if so, the details of action-plans prepared; and

(c) the modus operandi to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Union Ministries monitor developments in the economy and or external developments relevant to the subjects under their charge (as per Allocation of Business Rules). Appropriate adjustments are made to the policies and programmes to meet new developments as and when thought necessary and useful.

The sanctions/suspensions/delay in economic aid will have little effect on the balance of payments in 1998-99, as disbursements of previously sanctioned loans are not affected. Similarly, approval of new aid related to basic needs have generally not been affected. Thus, at this point, the impact is not likely to be significant during 1998-99, though one must keep in mind that the precise nature of the sanctions/suspensions is still not clear.

The general approach of the Government in countering the effect of sanctions is to try to get a better understanding of our position on the part of other countries and also to encourage private capital flows to substitute for whatever reduction takes place in official flows. To this end the Government is pursuing its stated policies of encouraging inflows of foreign direct investment or NRI flows and ensuring that our economic situation is strong and such as to create confidence in financial markets. It is also expediting various programms and changes which will improve the general climate for investment, growth and equity.

Bonds by SBI

*593. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India wants to raise US $ two billion through bonds;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal;

(c) what are the bonds in foreign currency already with State Bank of India;

(d) whether Government have assessed this proposal on a long term basis; and

(e) if so, whether Government approves this style of raising bonds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The Government has decided to mobilise foreign currency resources from Non-Resident Indians through Resurgent India Bonds to be launched by the State Bank of India for our country's development, especially for building up infrastructure. This was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on June 1, 1998 (vide para 45). In pursuance of the above decision of the Government, SBI has been permitted to float the Resurgent India bonds. SBI expects to raise about US $ 2 billion. SBI had issued NRI Bonds Series I and India Development Bonds in 1988 & 1991, respectively which matured in 1996 & 1997, respectively. SBI had also issued NRI Bonds Series II in 1990 which is maturing in 1998.

The SBI is in the process of finalising the offer document and some details of

the scheme are yet to be firmed up. Main features of the scheme are as follows:

The Bonds will carry a maturity of 5 years and will be denominated in US Dollar, Pound Sterling and Deutche Mark. The Interest Rate is 7.75% p.a. for US Dollar denominated bonds, 8.00% for Pound Sterling denominated Bonds and 6.25% for Deutche Mark denominated Bonds. Principal and interest will be paid in foreign currency to non-resident holders. Certain Tax benefits will be available from income tax; wealth tax and gift tax. Premature encashment will be allowed only in non-repatriable rupees after a minimum period of 6 months. Rupee Loans would be available to holders and third parties against collateral of the Bonds. The funds raised through the bonds will be used mainly for the development of the infrastructure sector.

मोटर यान अधिनियम में संशोधन

*594. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:**
श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:

क्या जन-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राजस्थान राज्य सरकार ने सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में कमी लाने के लिए मोटरयान अधिनियम, 1988 और केन्द्रीय मोटर यान नियम, 1989 में संशोधन करने संबंधी कोई प्रस्ताव भेजा है, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार दिए गए सुझावों के अनुसार अधिनियम एवं नियमों में संशोधन करने का विचार रखती है, यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एम० तम्बी दुरई): (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) मोटरयान अधिनियम, 1988 और केन्द्रीय मोटरयान नियमावली, 1989 में संशोधन करने के लिए अन्य सुझावों के साथ-साथ राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा दिए गए सुझावों की राज्य सरकारों के परामर्श से ब्यौरेवार जांच की गई है। इस संबंध में सर्वसम्मति के आधार पर मोटरयान अधिनियम, 1988 और केन्द्रीय मोटरयान नियमावली, 1989 में संशोधन करने के प्रस्तावों पर अन्य संबंधित मंत्रालयों/विभागों से परामर्श करके इस मंत्रालय में कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

Poor Quality of Internet Services

*595. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are frequent complaints from the public about poor quality of Internet services being provided by VSNL in Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Internet Services at Hyderabad are not provided by VSNL.

किसानों के लिए क्रेडिट कार्ड योजना

*596. **श्रीमती शबाना आज़मी:**
श्री यदलापति वेंकट राव:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश के किसानों को सरल ऋण उपलब्ध कराने के लिए क्रेडिट कार्ड जारी करने की योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का ब्यौरा क्या है और किसानों को किन मानदण्डों पर ये कार्ड जारी किए जाएंगे;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस योजना के कार्यान्वयन हेतु चालू वित्त वर्ष में आवश्यक ऋण राशि की भी व्यवस्था की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस कोष में चालू वर्ष में कुल कितनी राशि उपलब्ध है, तथा इस योजना को कब तक लागू कर दिया जाएगा?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० जनार्दनम): (क) से (घ) जैसाकि वर्ष 1998-99 के बजट भाषण में घोषणा की गई है, राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) से कहा गया है कि वह किसानों को उनकी जोत के आधार पर किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड जारी करने के लिए बैंकों द्वारा समान रूप से अपनाई जाने वाली एक माडल स्कीम तैयार करे, ताकि किसान उसका उपयोग बीजों, उर्वरकों, कीटनाशकों आदि जैसे कृषि निविष्टियों की तत्काल खरीद और अपनी उत्पादन संबंधी आवश्यकताओं के लिए नकदी प्राप्त